

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, MILL, UR

SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH NEW URUGUAYAN COMMANDER IN CHIEF

GEN. VADORA

1. DEPARTMENT OFFICERSAT LUNCHEON MEETING WITH GEN. VADORA HAD OPPORTUNITY TO GAUGE HIS POINT OF VIEW ON RECENT URUGUAYAN DEVELOPMENTS. VADORA NOTED THAT THOSE MILITARY OFFICERS NOW IN POWER IN ARMY WERE THE GROUP THAT ORIGINALLY PLANNED AND INITIATED THE MILITARY'S INCREASED ROLE IN URUGUAY. HE SAID THIS GROUP CONSIDERED THAT URUGUAY'S CIVIL INSTITUTIONS HAD ALL BUT CEASED TO FUNCTION AND THAT CIVILIAN POLITICIANS HAD THOROUGHLY DISCREDITED THEMSELVES. VADORA APPARENTLY EXCLUDES PRESIDENT BORDABERRY FROM THIS DESCRIPTION. VADORA SAID THE PERUVIAN MODEL HAD ABSOLUTELY NO ATTRACTION FOR THE URUGUAYAN MILITARY. HE SAID HE KNEW PERU WELL AND THAT EXPERIMENT WAS NOT FUNCTIONING SUCCESSFULLY. HE ALSO SAID THAT BRAZIL COULD NOT SERVE AS A MODEL FOR URUGUAY FOR OBVIOUS REASONS AND THAT

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URUGUAY WOULD HAVE TO FIND ITS OWN ROAD. HE ASKED THAT

"FRIENDS OF URUGUAY" SEEK TO UNDERSTAND DEVELOPMENTS. THE URUGUAYAN MILITARY WANTS ONLY TO GET URUGUAY WELL ON THE ROAD TO RECOVERY. IN DOING SO MANY MISTAKES WILL BE MADE, BUT URUGUAY IS COUNTING ON THE UNDERSTANDING OF ITS FRIENDS AND HOPES IT WILL NOT BE CONDEMNED NOR BOYCOTTED. IT WAS POINTED OUT TO GEN. VADORA THAT PUBLIC OPINION PLAYS A BIG ROLE IN SUCH COUNTRIES AS THE U.S., THEREFORE,

PROPOSED ACTIONS IN URUGUAY SHOULD BE CONSIDERED IN THIS LIGHT.

2. GEN. VADORA SAID THE URUGUAYAN ARMED FORCES WERE FIRMLY ANTI-COMMUNIST, THAT THEY WOULD RESIST ANY TEMPTATION TO PLAY OFF THE WEST AGAINST THE COMMUNIST BLOC. HE SAID THE CURRENT EFFORT MUST SUCCEED. SHOULD IT FAIL, THERE WOULD BE CHAOS. HE HOPED THE CONDITIONS WOULD BE CREATED TO ENCOURAGE INVESTMENT AND EVEN ATTRACT FOREIGN CAPITAL. HE SAID THE URUGUAYAN MILITARY WERE DETERMINED THAT THERE BE POSITIVE AND RAPID ACTION. HE HINTED THAT THE YOUNGER OFFICERS WERE ESPECIALLY IMPATIENT FOR SUCCESS. HE DID NOT ASCRIBE MAJOR IMPORTANCE TO THE EFFECT OF THE PETROLEUM CRISIS ON URUGUAY SAYING IT WAS ONLY A CONTRIBUTING FACTOR TO URUGUAY'S PROBLEMS WHICH WERE ESSENTIALLY MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS.

3. RE HIS ATTITUDE FOR THE U.S. HE SAID HIS TWO MONTHS IN THE U.S. HAD PERMITTED HIM TO SEE THIS COUNTRY IN A NEW AND MORE FAVORABLE LIGHT. HE PARTICULARLY APPRECIATED THE AMERICAN STYLE OF FRANKNESS IN PERSONAL DEALINGS, THE OPENNESS, CONSTRUCTIVENESS AND WILLINGNESS TO HELP. HE SAID HE PREVIOUSLY HAD BEEN NEGATIVELY INFLUENCED BY THE REFUSAL OF THE U.S. TO FURNISH GRANT AMMUNITION TO THE URUGUAYAN ARMED FORCES DURING THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE TUPAMAROS. HE CONSIDERED THIS A GREAT MISTAKE BUT NOW THAT HE HAD SPENT SOME TIME AMONG AMERICANS HE COULD UNDERSTAND THE REASON FOR SUCH A POLICY. HE HOPED A NEW ERA OF FRANKNESS AND GOOD WILL WOULD DEVELOP.

4. GEN. VADORA SAID HE LOOKED FORWARD TO FURTHER EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITH AMBASSADOR SIRACUSA. RUSH
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